



AF/2874 IFW

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2874**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kazuhiro ASADA

Group Art Unit: 2874

Application No.: 09/944,195

Examiner: K. S. Wood

Filed: September 4, 2001

Docket No.: 110540

For: OPTICAL FIBER GUIDE DEVICE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the March 11, 2004 Final Office Action, please consider the following:

Claims 1-9 are pending. Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Final Office Action indicates that claims 4, 7 and 8 contain allowable subject matter.

However, Applicant asserts that all of claims 1-9 are allowable for the reasons discussed below. Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Request for Acknowledgement that References are Considered of Record

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed on January 28, 2002. Although Applicant has received back from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449, the reference EP 0 697610 A1 was not initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the cited disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the subject Form PTO-1449. For the convenience of the Examiner, copies of that form and stamped receipt are attached.